

The Pipeline

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Are You Ready For Y2K (Or A Winter Storm)?

By Eva Smith-Carroll, CHS Communications

Editors Note: This article is the first in a series on preparing for Y2K or common emergencies, such as winter storms. The series will be completed by the Christmas holiday week.

Y2K is "shorthand" for problems that our computer-run society may experience when the calendar rolls over from 1999 to the Year 2000. Early programmers only used a two-digit code for years, so computers may read 2000 as 1900 and time-sensitive programs might fail.

Information for this series of articles on coping in the event of Y2K disruption was put together by the Cabinet for Health Services with information from: the Kentucky Division of Emergency Management, Governor's Office for Technology, Kentucky Cabinet for Public Protection and Regulation, American Red Cross, President's Council on Year 2000 Conversion, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.



Are you ready for Y2K?

A better question is – is your family ready for “ordinary” emergencies? That’s a good approach for a couple of reasons. Planning for winter storms, floods and other common emergencies covers about the same ground as Y2K planning. If widespread Y2K disruption doesn’t occur – and most experts think it won’t – you’ll still be ready for life’s other emergencies.

Putting together a kit

If your family was cut off from “the outside” for three days, what would you need to survive in comfort? Put together a disaster supplies kit with that thought in mind.

According to the American Red Cross, there are six categories of items you should stock in your kit:

- ✓ Water (a gallon per day per person).
- ✓ A three-day supply of non-perishable food that requires little preparation (don’t forget a non-electric can opener).
- ✓ A well-stocked first aid kit and list of emergency numbers.
- ✓ Clothing, including sturdy shoes or boots, and bedding.
- ✓ Tools and emergency supplies including tools needed to shut off gas and water valves, flashlights, a battery-powered radio and extra batteries.
- ✓ Special items -- supplies critical to your particular family, including those required by family members with special needs (expectant mothers, infants and young children, the elderly and people with disabilities) and pets.

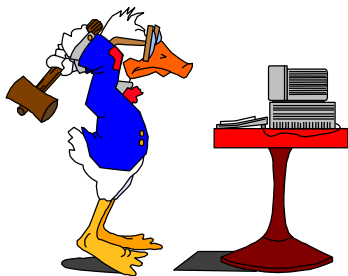
You can store tap water in clean plastic two-liter soft drink bottles with four drops of unscented bleach added to each to increase “shelf life.” (Don’t store water in breakable containers or in milk jugs or cartons since they deteriorate.) However, some emergency preparedness experts recommend buying a supply of bottled water with expiration dates.

Stored water tastes “flat,” so you might want to add some powdered drink mix to your supplies.

You will have to “refresh” your supply of food every few months. One suggestion is to routinely use some of the emergency food and replace it with newly purchased items.

After assembling your disaster supplies kit, keep the items that you would most likely need during an evacuation in a duffel bag or other easy-to-carry container. Make sure your car’s gas tank is at least half full and have an extra set of keys and local maps handy.

[Pipeline](#), a weekly newsletter for employees of the Cabinets for Families and Children and Health Services, welcomes reader comments and contributions. Items for *Pipeline* are due by 4:30 p.m. Tuesday; items for intercom announcements are due by 4:30 p.m. Monday. Call (502) 564-6786 or send information to Patricia Boler at Patricia.Boler@mail.state.ky.us



Techno Talk

By the Writing Team of CFC's Office of Technology

Misuse of E-mail

With the installation of our new computer equipment, we now have the ability to communicate effectively and quickly throughout the Cabinet for Families and Children. This has been an exciting achievement for all of us.

Unfortunately we have experienced misuse in the use of our the e-mail system for such things as chain letters and other inappropriate correspondence. This only serves to slow down the e-mail system and degrades our other system resources, ultimately affecting performance for you, the user.

Many of these chain letters and other inappropriate items contain viruses that in some instances will delete everything from your system, or may even infect the Cabinet's and State's entire system.

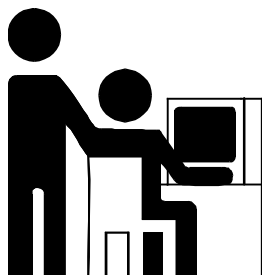
If you have your e-mail in the Preview Mode, you can delete unwanted mail without opening it, reducing the chance of virus infection.

We know that you cannot be responsible for what is sent to you, but you can be held accountable for what you send or forward to someone else. We only ask that you use good judgment and remember the reason the technology tools were installed in the first place: for you to be able to work better and smarter, not harder.

We are extremely fortunate to have been able to provide this equipment to everyone. To continue with our advances in technology we must all act responsibly. We are constantly working to improve system performance and features. Let's work together on this and eliminate the unnecessary use of our resources.

Technology Sponsors

Recently OTS initiated the Technology Sponsors Program. This program assigns an OTS quality central staff member to each region and staff office to serve as the primary technology "go-to" person.



The Technology Sponsor program seems to be working extremely well. Thank you for your cooperation in this effort. If you have other suggestions, please e-mail them to Rodney Murphy, CFC Office of Technology.

Y2K Status

There has been a strong effort in the Kentucky State Government to resolve the problems presented by the upcoming transition to the Year 2000. CFC has completed remediation and testing on all mainframe systems. We are finishing work on the last of our PC-based mission critical systems.

The Kentucky Child Care Management System (KCCMS) is ready to test and has a projected completion date of Nov. 30. Contingency plans have been developed by all offices and will be tested the week of Nov. 22.

Although we do not anticipate any major problems of disastrous proportions, some minor inconveniences may surface as a result of the Year 2000 problem. These minor inconveniences could be essentially the same as a winter storm. For more information about the state Y2K effort visit <http://www.state.ky.us/year2000/index.htm>



Fort Boonesborough Sponsors Christmas Market



With the approach of the holiday season, Fort Boonesborough State Park will sponsor a **Christmas Market** featuring the works of 30 artisans and craftsmen. The event is scheduled for Dec. 3-5 and admission is free.

Vendors will offer a variety of contemporary and traditional Kentucky-made products. Operating hours are Friday, noon to 8 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; and Sunday, noon to 5 p.m.

Fort Boonesborough is located off Exit 95 of I-75 near Richmond. For more information, call the park at (606) 527-3131.

Helpful Web Sites



Something new will be added to these *Helpful Web Sites* each week. Remember to “bookmark” the ones you will want to refer to often. If you’ve found a helpful site you would like to share in this column, e-mail it to <mailto:margaret.harney@mail.state.ky.us>

Children

<http://www.adopt.org> – a photo-listing of children throughout the U.S. who are waiting to be adopted, plus other information on adoption
<http://www.state.ky.us/agencies/gov/ecdrpt.pdf> – report from the Governor’s Early Childhood Task Force
<http://www.getnetwise.org> - information on keeping children safe on the Net, plus links to educational and entertaining sites for children, teens and families
<http://www.girlscouts.org/girls/Why/Y2K/Y2K.htm> – Girl Scouts on preparing for Y2K (Thanks to Eva Smith-Carroll for submitting this site.)

Research

<http://www.kcvl.org> – Kentucky Virtual Library: online access to nearly every library in the state

News

<http://www.kentucky.com/> - a search engine for info in many of Kentucky’s newspapers, magazines, and radio and TV stations
http://cfc-chs.chr.state.ky.us/media_releases/media.htm – media releases from communications staff of CFC and CHS

Health

<http://www.mayohealth.org> - health information sponsored by the Mayo Clinic
<http://chid.nih.gov/welcome/welcome.html> – a combined database of federal health agencies, maintained by the National Institutes of Health

Government Policy

<http://stateline.org/> - online magazine dealing with government issues
<http://nga.org/CBP/Front.asp> - online publication from the National Governor’s Association, covering health, social services, economic development and more

Employee Directories

<http://www.state.ky.us/directory/dirindex.htm> - an updated phone directory for all state government employees



Notes and Activities

- To volunteer with the **Special Friends** program, and be a mentor to a child, contact Ronnie Dunn of CFC’s Employee Services at 502-564-7770, ext. 3566.
- The **Fibromyalgia Support Group** meets the third Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. at Highland Christian Church, Versailles Road, in Frankfort. Anyone who is interested is invited to attend. For more information, call Linda Burke of Health Services at 564-7213.
- The **aerobics program** meets every Tuesday and Thursday at 5 p.m. in the cafeteria. Call Beth Bates at 564-7736 for more information.

State Holidays Scheduled

State offices will be closed and state employees will be given a holiday on the following dates:

Nov. 25 – 26	Two-day Thanksgiving Holiday
Dec. 7	Inauguration Day
Dec. 23 – 24	Two-day Christmas Holiday
Dec. 31 and Jan. 3	Two-day New Year Holiday



My Old Kentucky Home Shines for Christmas

While My Old Kentucky Home in Bardstown is beautiful anytime of year, Christmas has to be considered a special time to visit the graceful, historic mansion.

The festive holiday spirit is alive with an annual series of candlelight tours that begins the day after Thanksgiving Day and runs for 16 straight days, 5:30 – 8:30 p.m. daily.

As always, the mansion will be decorated with garlands and illuminated by candlelight for tours conducted by costumed interpreters. Traditional refreshments also will be served.

New for this year’s event is a visitors’ center dedicated last spring. The center will host entertainment throughout the season, including school and choral groups singing Christmas carols. A toy train display will be set up in the center’s lobby.

Admission for tours is \$4.50 for adults, \$4 for seniors, and \$2.50 for children ages 6-12. Children under 6 are free. For more information, call My Old Kentucky Home State Park at (502) 348-3502.